

Application No: 09/530,253
Attorney's Docket No: PHD 98.097

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please find below a listing of all of the pending claims. The status of the claims is set forth in parentheses.

1. (Currently Amended) A locating system comprising:

at least one data carrier located in a location defined by an absolute position; and
an information unit which is remote from the at least one data carrier for assigning an area one of a plurality of possible areas corresponding to said absolute position, determining area boundaries corresponding to the assigned area, and transmitting the area boundaries to the at least one data carrier;

wherein said at least one data carrier transmits its position to the information unit only in case of initialization and in case of movement of the at least one data carrier from the area, and wherein a third party interrogates the information unit for the position of the at least one data carrier.

2. (Previously Presented) The locating system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the at least one data carrier has a memory for storing the area boundaries and absolute position data, and a comparator for comparing the position data with the area information when the boundaries corresponding to the area are received by the at least one data carrier.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of locating an object provided with a data carrier located in an area, the method comprising:

receiving position data by the data carrier from a position-determining system;
transmitting position data by the data carrier to an information unit;
assigning ~~an area~~ one of a plurality of possible areas corresponding to the position data by the information unit;
determining area boundaries corresponding to the assigned area by the information unit;
transmitting boundaries of the area to the data carrier;
comparing a position of the data carrier with the boundaries of the area;

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transmitting new position data to the information unit only in case of initialization and in case of a negative result of the comparison of the area boundaries transmitted by the information unit with the position of the data carrier; and

interrogating the information unit from a third party for the position of the data carrier.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the area in which the data carrier is located is stored in the information unit.

5. (New) The locating system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the plurality of possible areas are stored in the information unit as electronic maps.

6. (New) The locating system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the area boundaries are transmitted in the form of data of a polygon.

7. (New) The locating system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the information unit provides the third party with the position data of the respective area.

8. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the plurality of possible areas are stored in the information unit as electronic maps.

9. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the area boundaries are transmitted in the form of data of a polygon.